

II. PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Please amend the Claims as follows:

1. (Previously presented) A method of supporting a kernel comprising:
generating a request in a kernel layer;
communicating the request to a user space;
processing the request in the user space to generate a response based on the request; and
communicating the response to the kernel layer.
2. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising using the response in further processing in the kernel layer.
3. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 1, further comprising;
generating the request at a kernel application driver; and
opening a communications channel between the kernel layer and user space at a bridge driver.
4. (Cancelled)
5. (Cancelled)
6. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 3, further comprising queuing the request at the bridge driver.
7. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 3, further comprising receiving the response from user space at the bridge driver in the kernel layer.
8. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 3, further comprising:
receiving the request in the user space at a job manager; and
processing the request in the user space with a support library.

9. (Previously presented) The method of Claim 8, further comprising queuing the request and the response in the user space.

10. (Cancelled)

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Previously presented) A system for extending kernel functionality comprising computer instructions stored on a computer readable storage medium and executable by a computer processor to:

- generate a request in a kernel layer;
- send the request to a user space;
- process the request in the user space to generate a response; and
- return the response to the kernel layer.

13. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein the computer instructions are further executable to open a communications channel between the kernel layer and the user space.

14. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said computer instructions are further executable to queue said request and said response in the kernel layer.

15. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein said computer instructions are further executable to queue the request and the response in the user space.

16. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 12, wherein said kernel layer comprises;
a kernel driver application operable to generate the request; and
a bridge driver operable to:
establish a communication channel with the user space;
communicate the request to the user space; and
receive the response from the user space.

17. (Cancelled)

18. (Cancelled)

19. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 16 18, wherein said bridge driver further comprises a kernel request queue and a kernel response queue and wherein said bridge driver is further operable to queue the request and the response in the kernel layer.

20. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 16 17, wherein the user space further comprises:

- a job manager operable to receive the request from the kernel layer; and
- a support library operable to process the request and generate the response.

21. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 20, wherein the user space further comprises a user space request queue and a user space response queue and wherein the job manager is further operable to queue the request and response in the user space.

22. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 20, wherein said job manager is further operable to translate the request into a format usable by the support library.

23. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 12, wherein the user space further comprises:

- a job manager operable to receive the request from the kernel layer; and
- a support library operable to process the request and generate the response.

24. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 23, wherein the user space further comprises a user space request queue and a user space response queue and wherein the job manager is further operable to queue the request and response in the user space.

25 - 40. (Withdrawn)

41. (Previously presented) A system of extending kernel functionality comprising:
comprising:
a kernel driver application in a kernel layer operable to generate a request;
a bridge driver at the kernel layer operable to establish a communications channel between the kernel layer and a user space and communicate the request to the user space;
a support library in the user space operable to process the request in the user space and generate a corresponding response; and
a job manager in the user space operable to:
receive the request from the kernel layer;
forward the request to the support library; and
forward the response from the support library to the kernel layer.
42. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 41, wherein the bridge driver is further operable to:
receive the response from the job manager; and
forward the response to the kernel driver application.
43. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 42, wherein the bridge driver is further operable to queue the request and the response at the kernel layer.
44. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 43, wherein the job manager is operable to queue the response and the request in the user space.
45. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 41, wherein the job manager is operable to translate the request into a format usable by the support library and the response into a format understandable to the bridge driver.
46. (Cancelled)
47. (Cancelled)

48. (Previously presented) The system of Claim 41, wherein the kernel driver application and the bridge driver are portions of the same kernel.

49 - 64. (Withdrawn)